

MINUTES OF DISASTER COUNCIL MEETING
May 27, 2009

Call to Order: Commissioner Glass called the Disaster Council Meeting to order at 3:08 PM.

Flag Salute: Led by Commissioner Glass

Roll Call / Motions for Excused Absence: Commissioners Glass, Davis and Matsuda were present and Commissioner Galbasin was absent (excused).

Department Representatives:	Rod Irvine	Police Department
	Tracy Bonano	Police Department
	Paul Vuoso	Fire Department
	Joe Huld	City Clerk's Office
	Gesuina Paras	City Manager's Office- Cable
	Dana Cortez	City Treasurer's Office
	Hillary Theyer	Community Services
	Linda Wilson	Community Services

Local Organizations and Community Members:	Meredith Eick	CERT / TARA / ADT
	Mike Martinet	Area G
	Chris Riccardi	Little Company of Mary
	Judy Retter	Torrance Memorial
	KK Fitch	CERT / TARA / ADT
	Dorothy Hart	Hillside Homeowner's Assoc.
	Sumie Imada	New Horizons

Comments from the Public:

None

Report on Posting of Agenda:

Moved – Glass / Seconded – Davis – 3 Ayes

Minutes for Approval:

A. April 22, 2009 – Approval continued to June 24, 2009 meeting due to absence of Galbasin. Moved – Matsuda / Seconded – Davis – 3 Ayes

New Business:

A. City Response to H1N1 Virus

Lt. Irvine - The City is monitoring situation using information gathered from local hospitals and the Torrance Fire Department (TFD). Question: Do we buy masks for city? Answer: No. Masks can do more harm than good if used improperly. In the event masks are necessary, the TFD recommended N100 as a minimum standard. The City continues to take direction from the Los Angeles County Health Department. Remember to practice washing hands frequently along with covering mouth and nose while sneezing and/or coughing. Anti bacterial fluid dispensers were made available at city counters and some restroom locations. Current reports of infection appear to be on the decline.

Mike Martinet - Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LACDPH) and Center for Disease Control (CDC) warn that a virus (not sure if H1N1 or some kind of variation) is likely to be more prevalent during the next (Fall) flu season.

Paul Vuoso - Be aware of media hype regarding virus spread. Use common sense in regards to everyday hygiene.

Chris Riccardi – Zero cases reported at hospital. Yes there is media hype, yes the virus can mutate and the CDC is keeping an eye on status. No new procedures at hospital - staff follows CDC recommendations. Federal government released stock pile of medication and it was available to hospital within 2.5 days – very impressive.

Judy Retter – Corrected cases reported to one in LA County. She also commended LACDPH response and that the CDC changed to adopt LACDPH criteria.

B. Earthquake Response

Lt. Irvine – Re: May 17, 2009 4.7 earthquake on Inglewood/Newport fault. Following the quake, public safety responders conducted windshield surveys, facility checks and TARA volunteer members ran a “net check” on their radios. In addition, the TPD Watch Commander (WC) contacted Lt. Irvine to check in with no reported damage. Unfortunately, there was no contact made from the field level up to department heads and City Manager. In the days following the quake, the question from the City Manager’s office, and department heads in particular, was one of emergency communication flow during an earthquake not reaching a 5.0 (EOC activation) situation. In response, Emergency Services will provide EPREP a lower response level protocol ensuring that communication flows from field level through the on duty WC up to department head and City Manager level.

Hilary Theyer – Questioned who city employees are to contact. City information phone lines were busy. Employees thought maybe Twitter can be used. Since

libraries are ADC's, there should be some alternative way to communicate during emergencies.

Lt. Irvine – In addition to a lower threshold communication response plan the TFD is working on a call out list for notification of employees.

C. Election of Chair – Begin Term July 2009

Motion by Matsuda to nominate Glass for Chair / Seconded – Davis – 3 Ayes

Motion by Matsuda to nominate Galbasin for Vice Chair / Seconded – Davis – 3 Ayes

Old Business:

None

9. ORALS

A. Comments from Commissioners

Matsuda – Anecdotal earthquake note to talk with neighbors about disaster preparedness basics such as water and various emergency supplies.

Davis – CERT training is very important combined with practice, practice and more practice.

Glass – In response to the earthquake, he found that several neighbors had run from their homes. That point in itself reinforces that disaster preparedness must be practiced on a regular basis.

C. Announcements/Updates

Mike Martinet – NIMS training for volunteers on Saturday, June 13th and CERT Summit in Anaheim on June 3rd.

Hilary Theyer – El Retiro library closed for construction. Can a TARA volunteer meet her at El Retiro to discuss antenna connection (pull proper cable from ceiling)? Commissioner Glass will email Chuck Galbasin with request.

Judy Retter – Reinforced not leaving premises during an earthquake. In addition, TMH has opted out of the June 18th statewide pandemic drill announced last month. Instead, TMH is implementing a plan to survey in-house staff for symptoms of flu and will be conducting an earthquake drill before the end of the year.

Chris Riccardi – LCM is also opting out of the full scale statewide event, but will work on a plan for a major surge of flu like patients. He would like to speak to

TPD and TFD about crowd control measures, but understands if coordination is not possible. The LCM response plan can be altered.

KK Fitch – Over half a dozen ADT members attended animal disaster training in Glendora and received pet ID cards. DCS training to be held June 13th from 8-12 at the general aviation center meeting room. ADT attended a live animal shelter set up and mock disaster set up at the Mariner's Church in Irvine. ADT Easy-up drill on the 21st of June outside Torrance animal control off Jefferson Street. Red Cross is providing dog and adult CPR training at Long Beach City College – register online.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM to a meeting on Wednesday, June 24, 2009, to be held in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room, 3031 Torrance Boulevard, Torrance, California.

These May 27, 2009 minutes were approved as submitted on July 22, 2009.